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COPY

LASH, Zebulon Aiton

Board of Governors

December 1918 - May 1919 (024)

LASH, Z A

See also -

Chair in MUSIC

a memorandum by
Z A Lash
May 1919

December 2nd, 1918

Z. A. Lash, Esq., K.C., LL.D.,
Canadian Bank of Commerce Building,
Toronto.

Dear Mr. Lash:

I am returning to you the two letters which you were kind enough to let me have. I read them with great interest. Your nephew has a wonderful power of description, as for instance when he is describing the way they dealt with the German Officers and soldiers in the captured village. You must be very much touched with his feeling of gratitude to you and his resolution to do something that has been worthy of your kindness to him.

I was asked by Mr. Langton a little while ago about the draft form for the acceptance of the bond of $1000 for the Colleges' German Constitue which was left by a lady some time ago. I am inclined to think that the draft is still in your office. If so, would you be good enough to ask your Secretary to let me have it, as we have all other arrangements completed now and Mr. Langton wishes to have the money paid over as soon as possible ?

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF
THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

TORONTO, December 4th 1918

Sir Robert Falconer,

President, University of Toronto,

Toronto.

My Dear Sir Robert:- Re Isabel Field Endowment

I have been waiting to hear from you about this. My recollection is that I sent you the draft of the Constitution of the Sermons' Committee and asked you to let me know when it had been agreed to, saying that when this had been done I would complete the draft of the Trust Agreement and correspond with Mr. Boyd about it. You told me sometime afterwards that the draft had been agreed to and that you were getting it signed. If it has been completed, please send me a copy and then I will do the rest.

Faithfully yours,

W. A. Boyd

December 4th, 1918

Dear Mr. Lash:

Now that after Professor Mackenzie's report you and Sir Edmund are satisfied that it would be in the interests of the University to join in the arrangements of the Teachers Insurance and Annuities Association, the next step, which I think should be taken as soon as possible, should be to determine (1) whether new appointees shall be required to take out an annuity; (2) what, if any, contribution the University will make; (3) the grade of service at which the University will begin to make such a contribution.

Perhaps it would be well for us to talk these matters over with Professor Mackenzie in order to have something ready for the next meeting. I am writing a letter to the same effect to Sir Edmund Walker.

Yours sincerely,

Z. A. Lash, Esq., K.C., LL.D.,
Toronto.

President.

December 6th, 1918

Z. A. Lash, Esq., K.C., LL.D.,

Toronto.

Dear Dr. Lash:

I am enclosing to you the draft of the constitution of the Colleges Sermon Committee with the signatures. This has been kept so long by the Secretary of the Y.M.C.A. who undertook to secure the signatures that I had overlooked the fact that it was in his possession. You were kind enough to state that you would take the matter up with Mr. Foyt.

Yours sincerely,

President.

December 7th, 1918

Z. A. Lash, Esq., LL.D.,

Toronto.

My dear Dr. Lash:

I omitted yesterday in my letter to say that the three trustees appointed by the Colleges Sermons Committee to hold the bond are Principal Patton, Dr. R. A. Reeve and myself.

Yours sincerely,

President.

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COPY

Toronto, December 9th, 1918

J. L. Boyd, Esq.,
1009 C. P. R. Building,
Toronto.

Dear Mr. Boyd:- Re Isabel Field Endowment

Since writing you on the 11th December, 1917, the Colleges' Sermons Committee has been established. There was a good deal of delay in getting the Constitution of this Committee signed by all those interested, although it was adopted at a meeting held in February last. I enclose copy of this Constitution. The three trustees appointed under the Constitution to receive donations etc. are Sir Robert Falconer, the President, Maurice Hutton, President of University College and Dr. R. A. Reeve.

I think the objects of the Constitution of the Committee as defined by Clause 8 of the Constitution carry out the ideas which you and Mrs. Boyd had in view in connection with the fund which you desire to devote as forming the Isabel Field Endowment. If you agree then it seems to me that all you need do is to send the amount, or the investment of it, to the trustees to be used for the purposes set out in the Constitution, and if you desire Mrs. Field's name to be used in connection with it, you might so state in your

communication. If you would like any formal document by way of a receipt for the money, I will be glad to suggest one for you. I fancy, however, that it would be quite safe to rely upon the gentlemen who form the Committee to see that your wishes are properly carried out. You might communicate direct with Sir Robert Falconer.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

"Z. A. Lash"

Enc.

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C O P Y

France, November 12th, 1918

Dear Uncle Zeb:-

It is only four days since I wrote you, and I hope you will forgive me for bothering you so soon again, but in a few days we will be taking part in one of the most famous events of the history of the World, and I am sure that it may be two or three weeks before it will be possible to get another letter handled by our Post Office, therefore I am making the most of the few days that remain, to get a bit ahead with my correspondence, and also to get off a bunch of Christmas cards. We have to do these things as the situation permits, which is not always as convention requires.

Under registered letter I am sending a little gift to Miss Lash, and I hope she will like it. It is a lace handkerchief which I purchased in Valenciennes while the signing of the armistice was being celebrated in the Square yesterday morning at 11.00 o'clock. It is said to be some of the famous lace of that town, and is, as far as my judgment tells me, handworked. Its value is not great as far as money in lace is concerned, but its sentimental value may be of interest, in that it comes from the City which on Nov. 1st, the Company I commanded, played a very important part in liberating, and which attack, by the way, was the last big one in which the Canadian Corps took part before the signing of the armistice. The part that success had in hastening the end will not be known until history is written, but I am sure it was large, as the morale effect of losing the last great City of France must have been heavy upon the German Forces. I have sent you a card which I hope you will receive.

I have been asked by the Colonel to undertake a very important duty, that of writing the history of the Battalion from the day of its authorization up to the present. I have

agreed to undertake the work providing I am given every facility, free access to all records, communications with the ex-members in order to secure personal narrative; and a comfortable spot in which to work. The Colonel has promised me that he will do all these for me, as far as it lies in his power, and will attempt to secure me a roving Commission so that I may be free to examine all the regimental documents stored in various parts of France and in the records office in England; and to permit me to proceed to England at any time to interview evacuated officers who have played important parts in engagements it will be necessary for me to deal with. It will certainly be a wonderful opportunity for me if I can secure the necessary authorization. My heart will be in my work, I know, and I feel confident of being able to make a success of it. It will take at least a month before the proposition can be handled by the authorities, who will grant the permission, and after that it will take me four or five months to complete the work. That period will give me an opportunity of realizing the dream I have fought for and longed for, of setting my foot on German soil, as one of the victorious army.

I have no doubt there was much evident enthusiasm in Toronto when the news of the armistice was received. How different it was here. The men took it very quietly, only excited talking and happy faces betraying the emotion they felt at the realization of their ideal. There was not even a cheer until when at 11 o'clock everyone was permitted to go to the Square where the bands drew up and played the French, British and Canadian National Anthems.

These men of ours are marvellous. There has not been a single case of indiscipline. I think that deep down in their souls there is something too great to allow them to give way now. These men who have made this miracle possible, have seen, have felt, have feared, have suffered, have sorrowed too much, to give way now when the end of it all has come. Too many dear friends lie behind them, to let them forget that those friends too have

done their share; and though the men may not realize it, I am sure it is the beautiful thoughts, the great tender feeling for the absent chums, that is making them voluntarily maintain the life standard of discipline which has made the name of the Canadian Corps one to be very very proud of. We need have no fear of these men of ours, they are behind us to a man. The German population who will soon see them, need have no fear of them. We shall not forget the treachery of their army; we shall not cease to hate as we have been given great cause to hate; but I know that nevertheless our men will conduct themselves in a manner which will be in keeping with the Glorious name they have won, and that their actions will always be just, courteous and firm.

There is really nothing more I can write about tonight So far as I am able I shall keep a full account of the historic march we are to commence in a few days, and I will send you a copy of it as soon as I am able. In the meantime with my verybest wishes to all members of the family and my love to Miss Lash and yourself,

I remain,

Affectionately yours,

"Herbert Lash"

C O P Y

Avin, near Huy

Belgium. 23/12/18

Dear Uncle Zeb:-

My last letter to you was written on the first of the month, but you will have to forgive my silence, please, for as you will see by the address we have been on the move again. We are now in this little village which lies about half way between Liege and Namur, whether we will go any further towards Germany remains to be seen, for the news has come today that we are to return to Canada in May. Certainly we are not staying here for the place is too small and we will move again somewhere immediately after Christmas.

A week ago Sunday we were near Namur. About 15 miles away in fact, but as there was a sort of car service connecting the two places I took advantage of it and managed to have 2½ hours in that now famous City. The time being so limited I was unable to visit the forts but I managed to see quite a lot of the City.

There are few evidences of war. The station has been badly shattered by our airmen and the Grand Place has been shot up quite a lot by the 1914 German bombardment but beyond those two instances and the line of trenches which the Belgians dug around the town there are no outward evidences of the war having passed that way.

Sunday in Namur is, as in all continental cities, a gala day. And the definition of a gala day, as far as I can see it, is the one day in which a Belgian (uses soap and) wears clean or semi-clean clothes. Everybody was out in his or her best and with the typical idle curiosity of city dwellers, stood in interested groups about anything that caught their fancies, from a chap playing a concertina to a chap tossing pancakes in a store window. The crowds were gay and well dressed and the stores were brilliantly lighted and apparently well stocked. But the prices! Let me quote you a few in Canadian money. Boots from $70.00 to $80.00 a pair; Butter $20.00 a pound, chocolates 20 cents each, eggs $2.40 a dozen. I don't know how the people lived. But they not only did but they look very healthy, though one chap told me he had lost more than 100 pounds. Personally I think it has done him a lot of good.

The City is most beautifully situated, lying in a deep valley through the centre of which famous river of the Meuse, runs. Trees cover the slopes on either side and the view in summer must be a pretty one indeed. One is not qualified to judge as to the state of the buildings owing to the length of occupation and to the scarcity of materials for their renovation. I can tell you very little about the City as my stay was so brief that I confined my

whole time to walking about the various streets.

Owing to the length of our lines of communication and the difficulty of securing supplies, Christmas will not be much of an event with us this year. I have received permission to spend the day in Brussels and I am leaving tomorrow if my old company commander who is now in charge of education for the brigade can get away too. We will have the 25th and 26th there so we should see something of the place in that time.

On New Year's eve there is to be a big ball there, given by our division; the King and Queen and the principal members of the Court will be present, so I am going too, as it would be a shame to miss such an historic event. But as that trip will be a case of go and come without a chance of seeing the City, I am taking advantage of tomorrow's opportunity.

We have been having the most horrible weather. It has been rainy and blowing for days. The country is fit now only for a chap advertising water wings and bathing suits.

My educational classes are making excellent progress in spite of the difficulties which have to be overcome and I am rejoicing in the fact that in five lessons I have taught 16 men the A B C who did not know it before, and I am no teacher at that. But still it gives one a feeling that something worth while is being accomplished, when one is able to remove that great handicap under which these men have been laboring all their lives. Tomorrow I am giving them their first reading lesson and tonight I have been making sentences like this - "The cat is on the mat. There is a rat. The cat can see the rat. Can the rat see the cat. No! because the rat is too fat, etc." I never thought I would have to do this sort of thing in the army. But it is part of military training that one must be able to adapt oneself to all conditions and I am adapting myself to the condition of schoolmaster.

It is late now so I will close. With best wishes to Miss Lash, yourself and all members of the family, and with the hope that the coming year will bring you all great happiness, success and good health, I remain.

Affectionately yours,

"Herbert"

C O P Y

Avth near Hay

Belgium, December 26th/18

Dear Uncle Bob:-

You will be pleased I know to hear that I have been awarded a Bar to my Military Cross. The award came through on Christmas day so it was a very acceptable present. The official text of the award reads:- In front of Valenciennes, 1st November 1918. This officer while in command of a Company in the attack showed the very greatest skill and gallantry in the handling and leading of his command. When there was a tendency to halt some hundreds of yards from the objective, Lieut. Leah, in spite of extremely heavy machine gun fire, and with great disregard of personal safety, rushed forward and by his splendid example caused the company to follow him, successfully capturing the objective. His coolness and quick action during the preparation for the repulsed enemy counter attack were worthy of great praise - signed E. L. Keegan, Lt.Col. commanding 47th Canadian Bn.

I also got this letter from Col. Keegan:

"It affords me great pleasure in informing you that you have been awarded the bar to the Military Cross for services rendered in connection with the operations in front of Valenciennes on November 1st, 1918.

"Please accept the congratulations of the Army, Corps, Divisional and Brigade Commanders together with my own and those of all members of the unit."

Signed: E.L.Keegan Lt.Col.
Commanding 47th Canadian Bn.

I haven't time for a letter but I knew you would like to hear the news. It certainly gives me far more pleasure to be able to tell it to you than it does for me to receive the decoration.

With love to all and the promise of a letter in a day or two telling you about my trip to Brussels.

I remain,

Affectionately,

"Herbert"

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Blake, Lash, Anglin & Cassels
Barristers, Solicitors &c
Canadian Bank of Commerce Building
Cor. King & Jordan Sts
Toronto

CABLE ADDRESS BLAKES TORONTO.

Z.A.LASH, K.C. W.H.BLAKE, K.C. A.W.ANGLIN, K.C.
WALTER GOW. MILLER LASH. GLYN OSLER. R.C.H.CASSELS.
M.C.CAMERON. GEORGE H.CASSELS. J.F.LASH.

S.G. CROWELL. G.G PAULIN

Toronto, May 17th, 1919

Sir Robert Falconer,

President, University of Toronto,

TORONTO.

My Dear Sir Robert:-

Dr. Vogt and Mr. W. R. Wadsworth called on me yesterday about this matter. I made a memorandum of the interview and enclose for your information a copy. I hope you will take the same view of the matter that I have taken.

Faithfully yours,

Z. A. Lash

Toronto, May 16th, 1919

MEMO RE TORONTO CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

Dr. Vogt and W. R. Wadsworth called on me this morning and informed me that there was objection among certain of the Bondholders to the carrying out of the agreement, on the ground that the property was being transferred to the University at much less than its value etc.

Dr. Vogt and Mr. Wadsworth wanted my advice as to calling a meeting of the members of the Conservatory and as to applying to the Bondholders individually for signature to the agreement.

After discussion the conclusion was reached, at my suggestion, that it would be a tactical mistake to do anything in the way of endeavoring to persuade those who were objecting to agree; that the matter, having been in charge of Sir Edmund Walker, it had better be left as it is until his return, as the position might be made more difficult for him to deal with on his return. I said that under no circumstances would the University interfere. I also said that the terms of the agreement could not be changed in any respect, as it had been authorized by the Act of the Legislature and the power of the University to carry it out depended upon this legislation. I suggested that the objectors might be told that in an interview with me this morning I pointed out that the University was

prepared to carry out the agreement as set out in the Act, but could not consider any changes in it.

Yours

May 17th, 1919

E. E. Cook, Esq., C.E.,

Toronto.

Dear Sir, Cook:

I have read your memorandum with respect to the Chair of Music resulting from your conversation with Mr. Dalton. In my judgment you have stated the matter very clearly.

I believe that the intention of the Board is to keep the Faculty of Music and the Conservatory of Music separate so that it would be quite possible to hold a chair within the Faculty of Music and have nothing to do with the Conservatory of Music, but of course he would be under the direction of the Dean of the Faculty of Music, who is Mr. Tory, and an outsider could not be appointed without the concurrence of the Dean. That is to say, I should not be willing to recommend to the Board any one to the Chair of Music merely on the recommendation of an outside committee who raise the money.

I hope that you are feeling very much better.

Yours Sincerely,

President.

May 31st, 1919

Z. A. Lash, Esq., K.C., LL.D.,
Toronto.

My dear Mr. Lash:

Very many thanks for your kindness in sending me your contribution of fifty dollars towards the Bursary fund.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.